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UNCLAS PRAGUE 000135

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KDEM PREL EZ

SUBJECT: CZECH RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

INVITATIONS

REF: (A) SECSTATE 15461 (B) PRAGUE 40

¶1. (U) This cable is Sensitive But Unclassified; not for internet distribution.

¶2. (SBU) Poloff met with Jan Kara, Director of the UN Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarding the Czech Government's position on Haiti, Iraq, Singapore, and Taiwan inclusion into the Community of Democracies.

According to Kara, the Czechs are supportive of observer status for Haiti and Iraq, though he mentioned again that it would be preferable to wait for the outcome of the elections in Iraq before making a final decision there. Kara said that the Czech Republic is ready to be quite flexible on Singapore. Comment: The Czechs do not appear to have a strong position on Singapore. End comment.

¶3. (SBU) On Taiwan, however, though Kara agreed that inviting the Taiwanese as "guests" as outlined in ref A sounds like a good idea, he was anxious to tell Poloff that he had been contacted directly by a representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office here in Prague, who had lobbied him strongly for the Czechs to support Taiwan as a participant. Kara said that the representative, Mr. Ssu-tsun Shen, had been unaware of the guest status idea when they had spoken. Kara hoped the USG would approach the Taiwanese directly to coordinate positions.

CABANISS